

Chapter Five

Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources

The quality of life in King County is directly linked to the quality of our region's environment, with its diverse landscapes reaching from Puget Sound to the Cascade Mountains, scenic beauty and the variety of cultural and recreational opportunities that enrich our lives. These vital natural and cultural resources contribute to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of ((C)) county residents and are ((also)) integral to attracting ((the region's strong economy, stimulating)) employment and business activity.

~~((Population and economic growth are redefining our region with a multitude of opportunities. Yet without careful planning, growth can lead to the loss of familiar landscapes, community character and treasured natural resources.))~~ The policies in this chapter focus on the ((C)) county's role as a regional leader in ~~((sustaining livable communities by preserving environmental quality, providing access to the out-of-doors))~~ acquiring and protecting its system of county-owned parks and other open spaces and in supporting cultural opportunities such as music, theater, ethnic heritage museums, literary activities, public art collections, urban historic districts and rural landmarks.

I. Parks, Recreation and Open Space

The Growth Management Act states that counties are the providers of regional services and local rural services, while cities are the appropriate providers of local urban services. As the regional government, King County ~~((is the appropriate coordinator of the development of))~~ manages a regional ~~((parks and))~~ open space system~~((, and the appropriate manager of lands and facilities that serve residents throughout the County))~~ of parks, trails, natural or ecological areas and working resource lands. While the cities are the ~~((best providers))~~ managers of local park, trails and open space lands in the Urban Growth Area, King County will continue to be the provider of local park, trails and open space lands in the Rural Area.

Population growth and associated development in recent years have ~~((resulted in significant change to))~~ transformed the county's landscape as forested and open lands have been converted to urban ~~((and suburban))~~ uses resulting in the fragmentation of wildlife corridors, riparian habitat and the depletion of working resource lands and open vistas. The policies in this section provide ~~((the basis for King County to adopt regulations, programs and services that))~~ guidance for the open space system of lands the county owns and manages to protect the health of natural systems, provide recreational opportunities, ~~((and help))~~ shape community character, and help sustain agriculture and forestry economics. The policies also reinforce the ~~((G))~~county's focus on linking components of the ~~((parks and))~~ open space system.

~~((A. — The Regional Parks and Open Space System~~

The goal of the Comprehensive Plan is to develop a contiguous parks and open space system, connecting and including active and passive parks, natural areas and resource lands. The Parks and Open Space Systems map shows publicly owned park and open space lands and provides the basis for potential corridors to link these lands into contiguous systems. The following policies reinforce the importance of the County's park, recreation and open space system, and guide planning for appropriate recreational opportunities or open space preservation activities that best meet regional and local needs. These policies are implemented by the *King County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan*, adopted in 1996 as a functional plan to implement the broader policies of the King County Comprehensive Plan.))

King County's open space system includes lands and waterways comprised of natural areas and environmental features which are permanently protected to provide wildlife habitat, passive recreation and educational, scientific, cultural or scenic value and to preserve physical and visual buffers between areas of urban and rural development.))

~~((King County's parks system includes lands and special purpose sites (e.g. pools) that provide space for active and passive recreation and visual relief from more intensive development.))~~ Regional active and multi-use parks serve a countywide population and provide high quality, highly developed facilities to support multiple events, large group gatherings and special events. ~~((Some local))~~ Local rural park sites ~~((contain undeveloped or undevelopable acreage that remain in a natural or near natural state and support urban habitat and other natural resource attributes))~~ provide for active and passive recreation close to home. Local trails provide recreation, circulation within the local community and access to the regional trail system.

Natural areas and some parks contain undeveloped or undevelopable acreage that remain in a natural or near natural state and support habitat and other ecologically significant attributes. Together these sites enhance environmental and visual quality and meet regional and local rural recreation needs.

~~((P-101 King County shall be a leader in identifying and linking park and open space lands to conserve the County's natural systems, create continuous open space and wildlife~~

~~corridors, separate urban from rural areas, sustain forestry and provide recreational opportunities.~~

~~The King County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan classifies all park and open space lands within the King County system in the following categories: 1) natural, 2) active, 3) passive recreation, 4) multi-use, 5) trail or 6) special purpose site. Each category is defined in the Plan. Within each of these categories, the Plan also identifies each site or facility as serving either a regional or local function, identifies its primary role within the system, and describes the park use areas within a site, if any.~~

P-102 ~~Any lands added to the King County Parks and Open Space System shall be classified as natural, active recreation, passive recreation, multi-use, trail or special purpose site, shall be identified as regional or local, and the primary role and any park uses, if any, shall be described.~~

P-103 ~~King County shall lead in the provision of regional open spaces and manage access to open space lands to ensure ecological sustainability and prevent conflict with natural resource goals. The primary purpose of open space lands is to conserve the natural ecosystem. Secondary goals include providing opportunities for passive or low impact outdoor recreation, education and interpretation, offering scenic views and protecting cultural or historic resources and sustainable forestry.~~

P-104 ~~King County shall lead in the provision of regional parks that provide facilities, programs and services to all residents of the County.~~

P-105 ~~Local parks, trails and open spaces that complement the regional system should be provided in each community, in both urban and rural areas, to enhance environmental and visual quality and meet local recreation needs.~~

P-106 ~~King County shall be a leader in establishing partnerships with other jurisdictions, private groups and individuals to complete the regional parks and open space system, linking local and regional lands and facilities.))~~

P-10((7))1 ~~For the purposes of the King County ((Parks and)) Open Space system, “Regional Parks” shall mean sites and facilities that are large in size, have unique features or characteristics and serve communities from many jurisdictions, and “((L))local” shall mean sites and facilities that predominantly serve communities in the unincorporated area.~~

A. The Regional Open Space System of Parks, Trails, Natural Areas and Working Resource Lands

The policies in this chapter provide the basis to develop a contiguous open space system, connecting and including active and passive parks, trails, natural areas and working agricultural and forest resource lands. The Open Space System map shows these publicly-owned open space lands and provides the basis for identifying the linkages necessary to strengthen the physical and functional connectivity of the county's open system. The following policies reinforce the importance of the county's open space system, and guide planning and management of appropriate recreational opportunities that best meet regional and local needs, preserve ecologically significant resources and protect working resource lands. Implementation of these policies is guided by the *King County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan*, adopted in 1996 (and subsequent updates.)

P-102 **King County shall be a regional leader in the provision of a regional open space system of parks, trails, natural areas, working resource lands, and flood hazard reduction lands. The regional network of open spaces provides benefits to all county residents including: recreation facilities, conservation of natural and working resource lands, flood hazard protection and related programs, and services. Preservation will include wildlife corridors and riparian habitat, as well as open space areas separating urban and rural areas.**

B. Local Parks

In the Rural Area, the large geographic area and dispersed populations, individual lots, low residential density and economies of site management dictate fewer individual park sites. Nearby regional parks and other open spaces also provide recreational opportunities. King County's role in the Rural Area will reflect rural levels of service

P-103 **Local parks, trails and other open spaces that complement the regional system should be provided in each community, in Rural Areas, to enhance environmental and visual quality and meet local recreation needs. King County shall provide local parks, trails and other open spaces in the Rural Area.**

((B))C. ((Functional)) Components of the Regional Open Space System((s))

King County's regional ~~((parks and))~~ open space system ~~((is comprised of three functional systems))~~ contains lands with many functions including active and passive recreation ~~((systems, including active and passive parks))~~, special purpose sites ~~((and))~~ such as pools, trails; natural ~~((systems))~~ areas, including waterways, greenways, and forested ~~((and wilderness))~~ areas with educational, scientific, wildlife habitat, cultural or scenic values; working resource lands including agriculture and forest lands; and community-defining systems, including physical and or visual buffers ~~((within and))~~ between areas of urban and rural development. Many sites within the ~~((parks and))~~ open space system serve more than one function, but each site serves a primary role within the system.

1. Active Recreation, ((Systems)) Multi-Use Sites and Trails

King County's ~~((park system consists of))~~ local and regional parks and facilities ~~((that))~~ accommodate a wide range of active and passive recreation activities. Active recreation includes a functional system of highly developed sites with organized, scheduled activities such as soccer and softball. Passive recreation includes activities such as informal play, hiking, walking, jogging and picnicking. Multi-use sites can include a combination of active recreation and passive recreation with less intensely developed facilities and natural areas. The ~~((Regional))~~ Trail System is a major element of the recreation and natural systems and provides ~~((both))~~ recreation and non-motorized transportation, as well as corridors often used by wildlife.

Regional programs serve a broad spectrum of users. These programs include those not generally viable for individual communities due to site or facility requirements or the unique nature of the offering requiring a broader user base to support them. Educational or interpretive programming promotes appropriate and enjoyable use of the park system. Public awareness of resources and their values builds support and stewardship for the system and its resources.

P-10((8))4 **King County shall provide ((a functional system of)) regional parks and recreational facilities that serve users from many neighborhoods and communities. ((This functional system includes)) Regional parks include unique sites and facilities that should be equitably distributed.**

P-10((9))5 **King County ((should)) shall complete a regional trail system, ((including connections between)) linking trail corridors, to form a countywide network.**

- P-1((49))06** King County ~~((shall offer))~~ should facilitate educational, interpretive and aquatic programs on county-owned properties that further the enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the natural, ~~((and))~~ cultural and recreational resources of the park system and the region.
- P-1((44))07** King County should ~~((sponsor))~~ facilitate and seek regional ~~((recreational and aquatic))~~ and national programs and special events at regional sites and facilities.
- ((P-112** ~~The King County Active Sports and Youth Recreation Commission shall advise the Executive and the Council on policies relating to active sports and youth recreation. King County should continue to support the Commission with staff and other resources.~~

~~It has been shown throughout the country that sports and recreation programs are the most effective tools we have to reduce minority and low income children's involvement in the juvenile justice system. At risk children that have recreational opportunities available to them are less likely to drop out of school or become involved in the criminal system.~~

~~At risk children in Central/South Seattle and North Highline/Skyway go on to become disproportionately involved in the criminal justice system. While ten percent of children in King County live in Southeast Seattle and North Highline/Skyway, nearly 22 percent of the juvenile arrests in King County come from these same areas.~~

- P-113** ~~In unincorporated urban communities where there is a disproportionate number of free and reduced price lunches in the local School District, King County should provide programs and facilities including organized sports for children, such as basketball, baseball/softball, and football, after school activities, and summer day camps. Recreational programming should be focused on the needs of youth that come from low to moderate income families, or that are at high risk for involvement with the justice system.))~~

2. Natural ~~((Systems))~~ Areas (Ecological Sites)

~~((King County is endowed with an abundance of natural systems such as mountains, forests, waterways, shorelines and lands with a diversity of vegetation and wildlife that embody the beauty and character of our landscape. King County will focus on linking natural systems to create regional open space corridors of greenways and waterways along the major river systems, shorelines and the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway.~~

~~Preserving these as systems in partnership with other agencies, private groups and individuals will provide multiple values including environmental and economic benefits of surface water management, aquifer recharge, and wildlife habitat preservation and enhancement.))~~

The King County Open Space system includes many sites whose primary purpose is to conserve and restore ecological value. These sites may allow public use that does not harm the ecological resources of the site. These natural areas include many environmental features of King County's landscape, which play a role in protecting a diversity of vegetation and fish and wildlife important to the beauty and character of the region. King County will focus on linking natural areas to create regional open space corridors of greenways and waterways along the major river systems, shorelines, and the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway.

Preserving these areas in partnership with other agencies, private groups and individuals will provide multiple values including environmental and economic benefits of surface water management, aquifer recharge, and fish and wildlife habitat preservation and enhancement.

- P-1((14))08 ~~((The primary focus of King County's regional in the open space system shall be natural systems and multi-use trails.))~~ King County will manage its natural areas to protect, preserve and enhance important natural resource habitat, biological diversity, and the ecological integrity of natural systems.
- P-1((15))09 King County shall recognize and protect ~~((natural systems for their))~~ the natural character ((on properties owned by King County)) and ecological value of its natural areas. These ~~((systems))~~ areas are important ~~((in))~~ for preserving fish and wildlife and their habitat, ((rare or vanishing flora and fauna, geological sites or)) native vegetation, and features of scientific and educational value. Development and public use may be limited to preserve the natural state and ~~((limit))~~ reduce disturbance of the natural ~~((system))~~ resources. ~~((There may be little or limited public access to these sites.))~~ Site improvements should be focused on providing educational and interpretive opportunities. Public access should be directed to the less fragile portions of a site to ensure continued protection of the ecological resources.
- ((P-116 ~~King County supports the Mountains to Sound Greenway along the Interstate 90 corridor. The County should work to complete the continuous block of public ownership along this greenway which forms the "backbone" of a countywide habitat network. Closure of the gap should be accomplished through acquisition or coordination with other public and private agencies.))~~
- ((P-117 ~~The implementation of King County's regional open space systems will be based on the opportunity presented by the physical landscape and will be evaluated by completeness of the system and conservation of important natural resources. The amount of desired regional open space cannot be quantified in terms of acreage per capita but should be based on resource preservation and the conservation of natural system corridors.~~

3. ~~Community Defining Systems~~ Moved to Chapter 2, Urban Communities

The Countywide Planning Policies call for the County and cities to implement Urban Separators. Different from the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, these are low-density areas within the Urban Growth Area that create open space corridors, provide a visual contrast to continuous development and reinforce the unique identities of communities. Urban Separators can play a significant role in preserving environmentally sensitive areas and in providing habitat for fish and wildlife. They also provide recreational benefits, such as parks and trails, and meet the Growth Management Act's requirement for greenbelts and open space in the Urban Growth Area. Urban Separators are mapped on the Land Use 2000 map in Chapter One.

- P-118 ~~Urban Separators are corridors of land that define community or municipal identities and boundaries, provide visual breaks in the urban landscape, and link parks and open space within and outside the Urban Growth Area. These urban corridors should include and link parks and other lands that contain significant environmentally sensitive features, provide wildlife habitat or critical resource protection, contain defining physical features, or contain historic resources. The residential density for land so designated should be maintained at one unit per acre, provided that lands that are sending sites under the Transfer of Density Program may transfer density at a rate of at least four units per acre.~~
- P-119 ~~King County should actively pursue designating Urban Separators in the unincorporated area and work with the cities to establish permanent, Urban Separators within the incorporated area that link with and enhance King County's Urban Separator corridors.~~

- P-120** ~~Designated Urban Separators should be preserved through park, trail and open space acquisitions, incentive programs such as the Transfer of Development Credit program, the Public Benefit Rating System program and regulatory measures.~~

While Urban Separators complement the regional open space system by helping to define urban communities, the King County Four to One Program provides an opportunity to add land to the regional open space system through the dedication of permanent open space. The purpose of the program is to create a contiguous band of open space, running north and south along the main Urban Growth Area boundary. Changes to the UGA through this program are processed as Land Use Amendments to the King County Comprehensive Plan, subject to the provisions in King County Code 20.18.

- P-121** ~~King County shall actively pursue dedication of open space north and south along the Urban Growth Area line through the Four to One Program. Through this program, one acre of Rural Area land may be added to the Urban Growth Area in exchange for a dedication to King County of four acres of permanent open space.~~

- P-122** ~~King County shall evaluate Four to One proposals for both quality of open space and feasibility of urban development. The highest quality proposals shall be recommended for adoption as amendments to the Urban Growth Area. Lands preserved as open space shall retain their rural area designations and should generally be configured in such a way as to connect with open space on adjacent properties.~~

- P-123** ~~King County shall use the following criteria for evaluating open space in Four to One proposals:~~
- ~~a. Quality of fish and wildlife habitat areas;~~
 - ~~b. Connections to regional open space systems;~~
 - ~~c. Protection of wetlands, stream corridors, ground water and water bodies;~~
 - ~~d. Unique natural, biological, cultural, historical, or archeological features; and~~
 - ~~e. Size of proposed open space dedication and connection to other open space dedications along the Urban Growth Area line.~~

- P-124** ~~King County shall preserve the open space acquired through this program primarily as natural areas, passive recreation sites or resource lands for farming or forestry. King County may allow the following additional uses only if located on a small portion of the open space, provided that these uses are found to be compatible with the site's natural open space values and functions such as those listed in the preceding policy:~~
- ~~a. trails;~~
 - ~~b. natural appearing stormwater facilities;~~
 - ~~c. compensatory mitigation of wetland losses on the urban designated portion of the project, consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan and the Sensitive Area Ordinance; and~~
 - ~~d. active recreation uses not to exceed five percent of the total open space area. Support services and facilities for the active recreation uses may locate within the active recreation area only, and shall not exceed five percent of the active recreation area. An active recreation area shall not be used to satisfy the active recreation requirements for the urban designated portion of the project as required by K.C.C. 21A.~~

- P-125** ~~Land added to the Urban Growth Area under this policy shall meet the density requirements, shall be physically contiguous to the existing Urban Growth Area and shall be able to be served by sewers and other efficient urban services and facilities. In some cases, lands must meet affordable housing requirements under this~~

~~program. The total area added to the Urban Growth Area as a result of this policy shall not exceed 4,000 acres.~~

~~P-126 King County shall amend the Urban Growth Area to add rural lands to the UGA consistent with Policy P-121 during the annual comprehensive plan amendment process. Open space dedication shall occur at final formal plat recording. If the applicant decides not to pursue urban development or fails to record the final plat prior to expiration of preliminary plat approval, the urban properties shall be restored to a rural designation during the next annual review of the King County Comprehensive Plan.))~~

3. Working Resource Lands

The county's open space system includes lands that are managed as working farms and forests. The county has purchased several properties with the intention of conserving the resource use on the site. County ownership and management of these lands conserves the resource land base, allowing the resource activity to continue, while contributing to the local rural economy, providing education about agriculture and forestry, and providing passive recreational opportunities on some properties. The County's policies to conserve farmland and encourage agriculture are discussed in Chapter 3.

The Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) is a county program that preserves farmland through the purchase of development rights. The farms in the FPP generally remain in private ownership. The county has purchased a farm outright in few cases, with the intention of reselling the land without the development rights to a private farmer. The county has developed a program to lease farms to small-scale farmers until such time that the property can be resold.

P-110 Farmland owned by King County shall contribute to the preservation of contiguous tracts of agriculture land and make affordable farmland available for use by small-scale and new farmers.

P-111 Farmers leasing properties owned by King County shall use Agricultural Best Management Practices, Integrated Pest Management and other sustainable farming methods.

P-112 The use and management of farmlands owned by King County shall be consistent with any requirements imposed by the funding program used to purchase each property and shall serve to meet and enhance the objectives of the King County Agriculture Program.

One element of the King County Forestry Program is the conservation of forestland through acquisition to allow forest management on the property. The working forests owned by King County are generally very large parcels of land (several hundred acres or more), which support sustainable forest management practices and contribute to the retention of a contiguous forest. These properties contribute to environmental protection, high quality passive recreation, the public understanding of forestry, and scenic vistas.

P-113 Forest land owned by King County shall provide large tracts of forested property in the Rural Forest Focus Areas and the Forest Production District (FPD) that will remain in active forestry, protect areas from development or provide a buffer between commercial forestland and adjacent residential development.

P-114 Forest land owned by King County shall be used to sustain and enhance environmental benefits, demonstrate progressive forest management and research, and provide revenue for the management of the working forest lands.

P-115 **Forest land owned by King County shall provide a balance between sustainable timber production, conservation and restoration of resources, and appropriate public use.**

4. Other Open Spaces

Preservation of open space in the county is grander than the county system. Large areas of the county are owned and managed by federal agencies, the state, and other local jurisdictions that manage the land for environmental protection, resource production, or a wide range of recreation opportunities. Additionally, open space benefits are often provided by private land owners managing their land in ways that protect the environment, conserve natural resources, or provide open vistas. King County acquires for other reasons, such as flood hazards or providing needed public facilities. These lands can also contribute to open space conservation efforts.

King County has acquired lands and manages facilities along major river and stream systems for the primary purpose of flood plain management and flood hazard protection. Major streams and rivers are vital components of the county's open space system, therefore the flood hazard reduction lands function as critical links in the county's open space network. King County will continue to maintain flood hazard reduction land and facilities within available funding levels. The county will also seek innovative measures for maintaining and improving flood protection, reducing maintenance costs, integrating flood protection and recreational opportunities, and achieving wildlife habitat protection and salmon recovery.

((C))D. Achieving the ((Regional Parks and)) Open Space System

Parks and other county-owned open space lands ensure a quality of life today and a legacy to generations of tomorrow. In King County, many types of ((the)) open spaces and fish and wildlife habitat remain in private ownership and may be subject to future development. To ensure that these ((special places remain special for our children and grandchildren,)) lands are resources are protected and to offer an alternative to acquisition, the county ((will continue to offer)) offers landowners ((incentives)) a wide variety of tools to preserve their property. ((such as the current use taxation and the transfer of development rights programs. Protective land classifications can safeguard sources of clean drinking water, essential wildlife habitat, and areas for scientific research, passive recreation and environmental education. In some cases, acquisition may be the best option to protect threatened land for future generations.)) Policies outlining strategies for using these tools, can be found in chapters 3, 4, and 7.

Cooperation, coordination and partnerships with public agencies, private groups and individuals are necessary to develop the regional parks and open space system, to meet existing needs for park and recreation facilities and to accommodate the needs of growth. The Mountains-to-Sound Greenway, along the I-90 corridor, is a successful model for coordination of efforts by public and private entities to protect the backbone of the county's open space system.

King County will achieve the multiple benefits of resource protection and recreation by building partnerships and coordinating with providers and user groups of the parks and open space system. Working together, stewardship can be fostered and these lands and facilities can be enhanced, restored and operated more economically and efficiently to benefit all county residents.

((P-127 **King County shall use park and recreation standards as adopted in the King County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan as guidelines to evaluate and provide local open spaces, parks, trails and recreational services.**

P-128 **Lands preserved for public parks or open space should provide multiple benefits whenever possible.))**

P-1((29))16 **King County shall explore incentives, regulations and funding mechanisms to preserve, acquire and manage valuable park and open space lands.**

~~((P-130 The County shall work with cities, adjacent counties, federally recognized tribes, state and federal agencies, school and special purpose districts, community organizations, non-profit organizations, land owners and other citizens to promote and protect all aspects of environmental quality and preserve open space and recreational opportunities.~~

P-131 A variety of measures should be used to preserve and develop regional and local parks, trails and open space. Measures can include: County funding, partnerships, incentives, regulations, and trades of lands and shared development activities. Where local park districts have been created, King County will work in partnership with the districts to maximize resources and meet community goals.

~~King County will achieve multiple benefits of resource protection and recreation by building partnerships and coordinating with providers and user groups of the parks and open space system. Working together, stewardship can be fostered and these lands and facilities can be enhanced, restored and operated more economically and efficiently to benefit all County residents.~~

P-132 In the unincorporated Urban Area, King County shall work in partnership with other jurisdictions and organizations to plan and provide local open spaces, trails, active parks, pools and facilities and recreation services. Upon the annexation or incorporation of an unincorporated urban area, King County shall work with that jurisdiction or other appropriate provider to assume responsibility of local parks, trails and open space to ensure continued service to the community.

P-133 King County should work with cities to share operational and maintenance costs of parks and open space in unincorporated areas in which a substantial portion of the users are from incorporated areas.

~~In the Rural Area, the large geographic area and dispersed populations, individual lots, low residential density and economies of site management dictate fewer individual park sites. Nearby regional parks and open spaces also provide recreational opportunities.~~

~~Standards are an accepted means by which an agency can express park, recreation and open space goals in quantitative terms. They are used to analyze the effectiveness of a park system and provide a measure of identifying need for parks and open space to support new development.~~

P-134 In the Rural Area, King County shall be the provider of local open space, park, trail and recreational services.))

P-1((35))17 ((Local parks)) Parks, trails and other open space lands should be acquired and developed to meet adopted standards with a combination of public funds and dedications or contributions from residential and commercial development, based on their service impacts.

P-1((36))18 ((Park)) Open space sites should be acquired when identified in the King County Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, adopted in 1996 (and subsequent updates) or when needed to meet adopted local park and recreation standard, or to protect contiguous tracts of working resource lands or ecological resources.

P-1((37))19 ((Local trails)) Trails should be acquired when identified in the King County ((Park, Recreation and Open Space)) Trails Plan or when identified as part of a community trail network. ((Where permitted, these trails should be in conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act standards, and should be developed to

~~accommodate multiple uses, including: hiking, cycling, running, and horse-back riding-))~~

- P-120 King County shall be a leader in establishing partnerships with cities, adjacent counties, federally recognized tribes, state and federal agencies, school and special purpose districts, community organizations, non-profit organizations, land owners and other citizens. The county and these partnerships should work to promote and protect all aspects of environmental quality and complete the regional parks and open space system, linking local and regional lands and facilities.
- P-1((38))21 Decisions on acquisition and development of park, ((open space and)) trail, and other open space sites should consider funding needs for long term maintenance and operations.
- P-122 Open space lands shall be classified to identify the primary role in the open space system and purpose of acquisition as active recreation, trails, multi-use, natural area or working resource lands. They will be classified as regional or local and the primary role and purpose of the site will be identified.
- P-123 Lands preserved for public parks or open space should provide multiple benefits whenever possible.
- P-124 A variety of measures should be used to preserve and develop regional and local parks, trails and open space. Measures can include: county funding, partnerships, incentives, regulations, and trades of lands and shared development activities. Where local park districts have been created, King County will work in partnership with the districts to maximize resources and meet community goals.
- P-125 King County will adopt an entrepreneurial approach to managing and operating the open space system and work aggressively to implement multiple and appropriate strategies to sustain fiscally the open space system.
- P-126 Management of the regional open space system of Parks, Trails, Natural Areas and Working Resource Lands is guided by the King County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, as adopted in 1996 (and subsequent updates). The plan includes policies on the management of parks and trails, natural areas, and resource lands.
- P-127 King County shall use park and recreation standards as adopted in the King County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, adopted in 1996 (and subsequent updates) as guidelines to evaluate and provide local parks, trails, and recreational services.
- P-128 In the Urban Area, King County shall work in partnership with other jurisdictions to facilitate annexation and transfer of local parks, trails and other open spaces to cities or other providers to ensure continued service to the community.
- P-129 King County should work with cities to share operational and maintenance costs of parks and other open spaces in unincorporated areas in which a substantial portion of the users are from incorporated areas.

II. Cultural Resources

Cultural ~~((activity makes a))~~ resources make a significant contribution to the ~~((character of King County's communities, its))~~ quality of life in King County. ~~((and the region's economy, and is a measure of the vitality of the region. Cultural))~~ Arts and heritage organizations, public art ~~((work))~~ and historic ~~((sites))~~ and archaeological properties contribute to the region's economic vitality ~~((through their budgets))~~, play an essential role in cultural tourism, and contribute significantly to the county's overall quality of life~~((and attractiveness to new businesses))~~. As King County grows, the need to protect, support and enhance cultural opportunities and resources is essential in order to sustain livability.

In the following policies and discussion, the term "cultural resources" refers to all performing and visual arts events, programs and facilities: public art; heritage events; programs and facilities; and historic properties. The term "historic properties" means all historic buildings, sites, objects, districts, and landscapes, prehistoric and historic archaeological resources, and traditional cultural places.

P-201 King County shall protect cultural resources and promote expanded cultural opportunities for residents to enhance the region's quality of life and economic vitality.

P-202 King County shall support the transmission of the region's cultural legacy, promote cultural education, and encourage the preservation and celebration of cultural diversity and creativity.

County residents need arts and heritage opportunities ~~((balancing))~~ that balance regional programs and facilities for attendance with a network of local community opportunities for participation and education. The regional cultural system is comprised of a regional and local infrastructure of cultural organizations, individuals and venues; an interjurisdictional program for historic resource protection; and region-wide enhancement of public places with art works.

P-203 King County shall support and encourage development of regional cultural organizations, facilities, and services that address a countywide audience or are dedicated to unique and significant cultural themes or disciplines.

P-204 King County shall support and encourage community cultural organizations, facilities, and services to provide opportunities for local access and participation by all residents throughout the county.

A. Arts

The region's artistic environment parallels its natural features in variety and richness. Its arts organizations, artists and opportunities are widely known and valued for their diversity, excellence and abundance of music, theater, dance, literary activity, and visual arts.

P-205 King County shall ~~((administer regional arts programs to))~~ support excellence and vitality in the arts and ~~((to))~~ support opportunities for attendance at and participation in diverse arts and cultural activities throughout the county. ~~((King County may initiate programs to increase access to the arts.))~~

- P-206** ~~The ((Arts Commission))~~ Cultural Development Authority of King County or its successor organization shall advise the King County Executive and the Council on programs, policies and regulations that support and increase access to the arts.

B. Historic Preservation

Preservation of historic ~~((resources))~~ properties provides multiple benefits to the region; historic ~~((resources))~~ properties maintain a tangible connection with the historic and prehistoric past. They contribute character, diversity and aesthetic value to communities, particularly in times of rapid change. Historic attractions play a significant role in the region's appeal to tourists. ~~((Like salmon streams historic resources also have intrinsic value as places of tradition, meaning and truths about the past.))~~ Many municipalities do not have sufficient resources to administer an historic preservation program. As a result, the shared history of the region is endangered. Comprehensive and coordinated protection of significant historic properties is necessary in order to ensure that King County's collective history is preserved.

~~((Historic resources and development do not necessarily correspond to current jurisdictional boundaries. The region's continuity with the past is found in both urban and rural areas, divided among multiple jurisdictions. The region's heritage is endangered without consistent and coordinated protection.))~~

- P-207** King County shall administer a regional historic preservation program to identify, evaluate, ~~((and))~~ protect and enhance, historic ~~((and archaeological resources))~~ properties.
- P-208** The Landmarks ~~((and Heritage))~~ Commission shall advise the King County Executive and the Council on programs, policies and regulations that support and ~~((increase access to historic resources))~~ enhance preservation and protection of significant historic properties.
- ~~((P-209 King County shall administer regional historic preservation programs to support, preserve and enhance historic resources and to support opportunities for attendance and participation in diverse heritage activities throughout the county. King County may initiate heritage programs to increase access to these resources.))~~

C. Public Art

Collectively, public art is a regional resource that enhances community character and diversity, sparks imagination, and provides a direct cultural experience for county residents every day. For new or changing communities, public art is a powerful contributor to local character, sense of place and belonging. Public art can also help mitigate the adverse effects of new development.

- P-~~((240))~~209** King County shall ~~((administer a regional public art program that provides))~~ provide art in public facilities, projects and places to enhance community character and quality of life. Maintenance and conservation shall be a consideration in the development and management of public art. King County undertakings (including public-private partnerships and development authorities) that include public funds or resources, have publicly visible physical components, or require mitigation should include public art. King County should encourage provision of public art in private development projects.
- P-~~((244))~~210** The ~~((Public Art Commission))~~ Cultural Development Authority of King County or its successor organization shall advise the King County Executive and the Council on programs, policies and regulations that support and increase access to public art.

D. Heritage

Museums, historical societies, ethnic organizations and other heritage groups, and historians, archivists, folklorists and other heritage specialists enrich community life and provide cultural experiences for county residents and visitors. Without appreciation, preservation and stewardship of local history by heritage specialists, groups and organizations, the county's rich history would be lost.

P-211 The Cultural Development Authority of King County or its successor organization shall advise the King County Executive and the Council on programs and policies that support and enrich King County's heritage.

P-212 King County shall support, preserve and enhance its heritage and shall encourage opportunities for public attendance and participation in diverse heritage activities throughout the County.

E. Cooperation

Cultural resource ~~((issues cross))~~ management crosses jurisdictional boundaries and involve countless public and private players throughout the region. ~~((As one of many public and private participants facing growing needs and demands, King County must cooperate with others in supporting arts and heritage organizations, facilities and activities to achieve maximum effectiveness, public access and benefit.))~~ The range and complexity of cultural activity in the region requires coordination and cooperation. King County government is uniquely able to provide regional coordination and leadership.

P-((242))213 King County shall pursue its cultural resource goals by working with residents, property owners, cultural organizations, public agencies, federally-recognized tribes, schools and school districts, and others.

P-((243))214 King County shall work with cities to protect and enhance historic resources and public art located within city boundaries and annexation areas. The ((C))county shall advocate for and actively market its ((arts,)) historic preservation ((and public art)) services to agencies and cities that could benefit from such services.

Cultural facilities and services are needed in locations and ways that expand public access, broaden diversity of content and audiences and enhance cultural opportunities for all residents.

P-((244))215 King County shall encourage shared, multipurpose use of regional and community facilities for cultural activities to maximize their efficient use and to expand public access to cultural opportunities.

((E))E. Stewardship of Cultural Resources

Historic preservation is an ongoing activity that requires identification and evaluation of resources, use of a variety of regulatory protection measures and incentives, and attention to long-term preservation, enhancement and interpretation. Land use planning ~~((can be used to))~~ should direct and coordinate patterns of development so as to minimize current and future conflicts with historic resources in urban and rural areas.

P-((245))216 King County shall encourage land uses and development that retain and enhance significant historic ((and archaeological resources)) properties and sustain historic community character. County building and zoning codes and other regulations and standards should provide flexibility to accommodate preservation and reuse of historic properties. Zoning actions should take into account the effects of zoning on historic properties.

Project review can respond to and modify development proposals affecting historic and archaeological resources to eliminate or minimize adverse effects of development or changing land use. King County government can also protect historic resources through ~~((more))~~ careful planning and review of its own undertakings, both direct and indirect. Archaeological resources are particularly sensitive and endangered.

P-~~((246))~~217 King County shall review public and private projects and may condition them in order to protect ~~((and enhance))~~ historic ~~((and archaeological resources))~~ properties . King County agencies shall coordinate with the ~~((Office of Cultural Resources))~~ Historic Preservation Program to provide consistent review and mitigation for projects within unincorporated areas and for ~~((other))~~ ~~((C))~~county undertakings within cities.

P-~~((247))~~218 King County shall inventory historic ~~((and archaeological resources))~~ properties in order to guide decision making in resource planning, capital projects, operations, environmental review and resource management.

P-~~((248))~~219 Archaeological ~~((resources))~~ properties shall be identified, evaluated and protected in a consistent and coordinated manner. King County shall ~~((develop archaeological sensitivity models,))~~ establish consistent review and protection procedures and develop centralized professional archaeological staffing.

Cultural resources are often destroyed through neglect. Maintenance and other management practices that protect historic features and character can assure long-term preservation. Information about the history and significance of a property fosters appreciation and informs owners, users and the public about its value.

King County government can lead by example through stewardship and wise management of its own cultural resources. Historic public buildings and facilities, such as bridges and roads, can be preserved and continue to be used; other historic resources can be converted to public use.

P-~~((249))~~220 All King County agencies shall be stewards of cultural resources under their direct control~~((, such as historic resources and public art))~~. Agencies shall identify and assess cultural resources, ~~((and shall))~~ preserve significant historic ~~((and archeological resources))~~ properties and public art, ~~((work))~~ and provide public access to them whenever appropriate. Agencies shall collaborate with the ~~((Office of Cultural Resources))~~ Historic Preservation Program to nominate eligible properties for landmark designation.

P-~~((220))~~221 King County shall interpret its cultural resources to enhance their ~~((public))~~ understanding and enjoyment by the public.

P-~~((224))~~222 King County shall acquire and preserve historic resources for use by ~~((C))~~county and other public agencies and shall give priority to occupying historic buildings whenever feasible.

P-~~((222))~~223 King County shall provide incentives to encourage investment in historic properties and public art. County programs and incentives for land and resource preservation and economic development shall support and be coordinated with cultural resource preservation and provision of public art.